

Message Text

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DEPT FOR INR AND OES

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SUBJECT: NON-IONIZING RADIATION EXPOSURE SAFETY
STANDARDS (C-SI-5-59505)

REF: A-100, JAN 9, 1976

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF AIRGRAM, WE HAVE CONTACTED OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR RADIATION SAFETY MATTERS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MINISTRY OF LABOR, AND MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH, AS WELL AS THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION THE CENTRAL SERVICE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST RADIATION. ALL OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SEPARATELY CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL ENTITIES IN FRANCE CONCERNED WITH NON-IONIZING EXPOSURE SAFETY STANDARDS.

2. PROFESSOR PELLERIN, CHEF DU SERVICE CENTRAL DE PROTECTION CONTRE LES RAYONNEMENTS (SCPRI), BOITE POSTAL 35, 78 LE VESINET, FRANCE, IS PROBABLY THE LEADING CONSULTANT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON RADIATION EXPOSURE MATTERS, BUT HE IS ONLY INTERESTED IN IONIZING RADIATION. HE IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IRPA ORGANIZATION IDENTIFIED IN PARA 2 (B) OF REF AIRGRAM.

3. THE SUBDEPARTMENT OF HYGIENE AND SAFETY IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MME MADELEINE LAMARIND, IS CONCERNED WITH THE SAFETY OF PERSONS

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WORKING WITH RADIATING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SUCH AS

MICROWAVE OVENS, BUT THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF NON-IONIZING RADIATION STANDARDS IS FOREIGN TO HER AND HER STAFF. CURRENTLY A SET OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS AND LAWS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION BY A JOINT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH AND MINISTRY OF LABOR GROUP, BUT THIS IS ONLY ON IONIZING RADIATION.

4. THE SECTION OF THE NATIONAL LABORATORY FOR TESTING (MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH) CONCERNED WITH SAFETY STANDARDS FOR MICROWAVE OVENS, "SERVICE THERMIQUE," IS NOT ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF STANDARDS OF NON-IONIZING RADIATION, ACCORDING TO ITS SECTION CHIEF M. DOUSSAIN.

5. THE QUESTION-TOPICS IDENTIFIED IN PARA 2 OF REF AIRGRAM WERE RAISED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR REPRESENTATIVE MME LAMARIND, AND, FOR WHAT HER RESPONSES ARE WORTH GIVEN THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS, A NEGATIVE OR NON-APPLICABLE RESPONSE COULD BE RECORDED FOR EACH TOPIC RAISED.

A. IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT RADIATION SAFETY STANDARDS WILL BE AN ISSUE OF ANY SORT IN FRANCE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

B. THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY APPROACHES TO FRANCE BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH THROUGH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S FORMAL AND INFORMAL MECHANISMS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EXCHANGE ON THE SUBJECT OF IONIZING RADIATION.

C. THERE HAS NOT BEEN, AND THERE IS NOT ANTICIPATED, ANY DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT IN POLITICAL, LEGAL, OR TECHNICAL CIRCLES.

6. COMMENT: WHEN THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED AND COLLATED THE RESPONSES OF OTHER ADDRESSEES ON THIS SUBJECT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY RESULTING INFORMATION THAT MAY PERTAIN TO FRENCH INTERESTS SO THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY PURSUE THIS SUBJECT WHEN IT DEVELOPS.
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